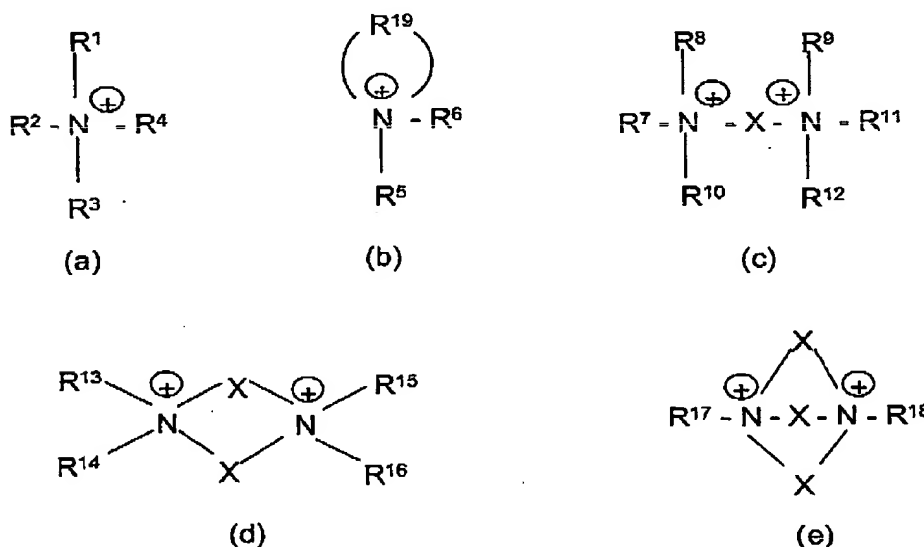


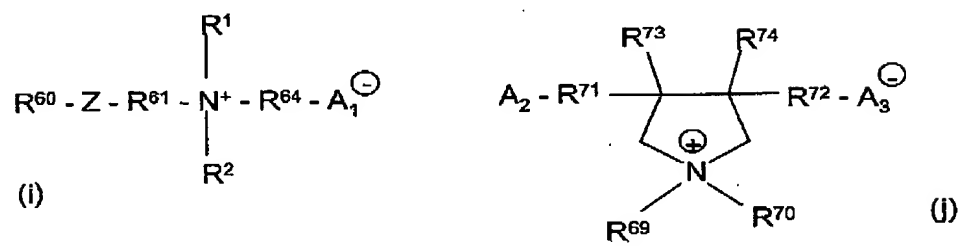
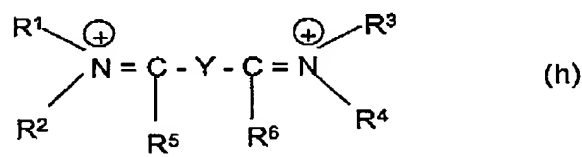
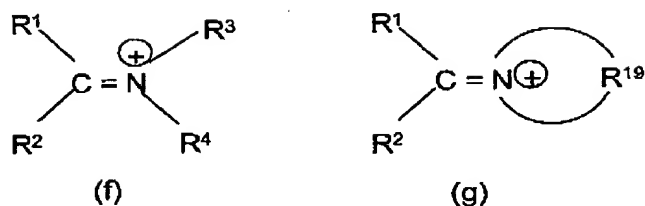
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of imparting, controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner or developer, or an electret material, comprising the step of adding as a charge control agent, wherein the charge control agent is a structured silicate salt, wherein the cation is a low molecular weight, nonpolymeric organic-cation ammonium ion or a combination of a low molecular weight, nonpolymeric organic-cation ammonium ion with NH_4^+ , H_3O^+ , an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, an earth metal or with a transition metal and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or matrix silicate or a combination thereof to a binder of an electrophotographic toner or developer or of an electret material, wherein the low molecular weight, nonpolymeric ammonium ion is of the formula (a) - (i)



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in which

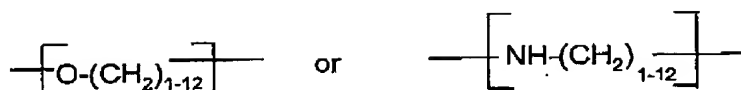
R^1 to R^{18} are identical or different and represent hydrogen, CN, $(CH_2)_{1-18}$ CN, halogen, branched or unbranched C_1 - C_{32} -alkyl, mono- or polyunsaturated C_2 - C_{32} -alkenyl, C_1 - C_{22} -alkoxy, C_1 - C_{22} -hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_{22} -halogenoalkyl, C_2 - C_{22} -halogenoalkenyl, C_1 - C_{22} -aminoalkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{12})$ -trialkyl-ammonium- $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkyl; $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)O$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ -alkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)O$ -aryl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)NH$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ -alkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)NH$ -aryl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $O(CO)$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ -alkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $O(CO)$ -aryl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $NH(C=O)$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ -alkyl, or $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $NHCO$ -aryl,

wherein

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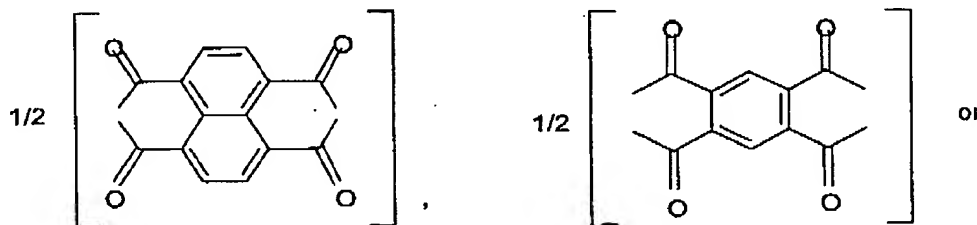
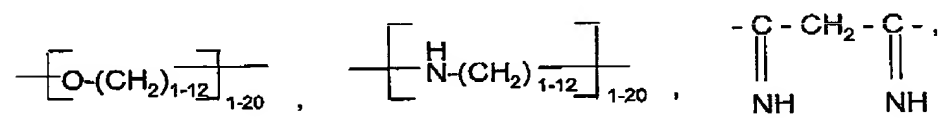


are optionally inserted into the acid ester or acid amide bonds:

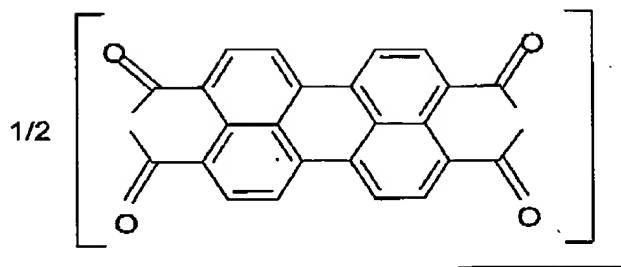
$[(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_{12})\text{-alkylene-O-}]$ -H; aryl, $(\text{C}_1-\text{C}_{18})\text{-alkylenearyl}$; $-(\text{O-SiR}'_2)\text{-O-SiR}'_3$, in which R' has the meaning $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkyl}$, phenyl, benzyl or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkoxy}$; heterocyclyl, or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{18}\text{-alkylene-heterocyclyl}$, wherein the aryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally mono- or polysubstituted on carbon atoms or heteroatoms by $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkenyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$, hydroxy- $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)\text{-alkyl}$, amino- $(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4)\text{-alkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylimino}$, carboxyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, cyano, halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-acyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-halogenoalkyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonyloxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxycarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylcarbonylimino}$, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}\text{-arylcarbonyl}$, aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminosulfonyl}$, phenyl, naphthyl, or heteroaryl;

R¹⁹ represents $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_{11}\text{-alkylene}$, $-(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{-O})_{1-17}\text{-(CH}_2)_{1-2}$ or $-(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{-NR})_{1-17}\text{-(CH}_2)_{1-2}$, in which R is hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkyl}$;

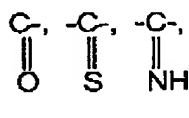
X has the meaning of Y, or $-\text{CO-CH}_2\text{-CO-}$,



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Y has the meaning



-(CH₂)₁₋₁₈-



or o-, p-, m-(C₈-C₁₄)-arylene or (C₈-C₁₄)-heteroarylene with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and a combination thereof;

R⁶⁰ represents C₁-C₃₂-acyl, C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, C₂-C₂₂-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkylene-C₈-C₁₀-aryl, C₁-C₂₂-alkylene-heterocyclyl, C₈-C₁₀-aryl or (C₈-C₁₄)-heteroaryl with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, and a combination thereof;

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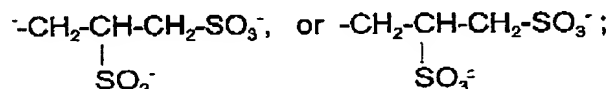
R⁶¹ and R⁶⁴ represent $-(CH_2)_{1-18}-$, C_1-C_{12} -alkylene- C_8-C_{10} -arylene, C_8-C_{10} -arylene, or C_6-C_{12} -alkylene-heterocyclyl;

Z represents $-NH-$ or $-O-$;

A₁⁻ and A₃⁻ represent $-COO^-$, $-SO_3^-$, $-OSO_3^-$, $-SO_2^-$, $-COS^-$ or $-CS_2^-$;

A₂ represents $-SO_2Na$, $-SO_3Na$, $-SO_2H$, $-SO_3H$ or hydrogen;

R⁶⁹ and R⁷⁰ independently of one another represent hydrogen, C_1-C_{32} -alkyl, in which the alkyl chain optionally contain one or more of the groups selected from the group consisting of $-NH-CO-$, $-CO-NH-$, $-CO-O-$, and $-O-CO-$; C_1-C_{18} -alkylene-aryl, C_6-C_{18} -alkylene-heterocyclyl, C_1-C_{18} -hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_{18} -halogenoalkyl, aryl, $-(CH_2)_3-SO_3^-$,



R⁷¹ and R⁷² represent $-(CH_2)_{1-12}-$; and

R⁷³ and R⁷⁴ represent hydrogen or C_1-C_{22} -alkyl

2) (Cancelled)

3) (Cancelled)

4) (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the low molecular weight organic cation is a substituted, phosphonium, thionium or triphenylcarbonium ion or a cationic metal complex.

5) (Cancelled)

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6) (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 5 1, wherein R¹ to R¹⁸ denote hydrogen CN, CH₂-CN, CF₃, C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkoxy, C₁-C₁₈-hydroxy-alkyl, C₁-C₁₈-halogenoalkyl, C₂-C₁₈-halogenoalkenyl, C₁-C₁₈-aminoalkyl, (C₁-C₈)-trialkylammonium-(C₁-C₁₈)-alkyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-O(C=O)-(C₁-C₂₂)-alkyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-O(C=O)-phenyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-NHCO-(C₁-C₂₂)-alkyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-NHCO-phenyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-(C=O)O-(C₁-C₂₂)-alkyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-(C=O)O-phenyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-(C=O)NH-(C₁-C₂₂)-alkyl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylene-CONH-phenyl, benzyl, phenyl, naphthyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkylene-heterocyclyl; R¹⁹ denotes C₄-C₅-alkylene, -(C₂H₄-O)₁₋₉-(CH₂)₁₋₂ or -(C₂H₄-NH)₁₋₈-(CH₂)₁₋₂; R⁶⁰ denotes C₁-C₁₈-acyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₂-C₁₈-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₂-alkylene-phenyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkylene-pyridyl, phenyl or pyridyl; R⁶¹ and R⁶⁴ denote -(CH₂)₁₋₁₂, C₁-C₈-alkylene-phenylene, phenylene or C₁-C₈-alkylenepyridylene or piperidylene; R⁷¹ and R⁷² denote -(CH₂)₁₋₈ and R⁷³ and R⁷⁴ denote hydrogen or (C₁-C₁₈)-alkyl.

7) (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the low molecular weight organic cation is an ammonium ion which is an aliphatic or aromatic 5- to 12-membered heterocyclic radical with 1 to 4 atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, or a combination thereof, belonging to the rings.

8) (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the heterocyclic radical is pyridinium, pyridazinium, pyrimidinium, pyrazinium, purinium, tetraazaporphyrinium, piperidinium, morpholinium, tetrazonium, triaza-cyclononanium or tetraaza-cyclododecanium.

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9) (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the cationic metal complex is a metal carboxylate, metal salicylate, metal sulfonate, 1:1 metal-azo complex or a metal dithiocarbamate.

10) (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, TiO, VO, Cr, V, Ti, Zr, Sc, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn and ZrO.

11) through 16) (Cancelled)

17) (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, TiO, VO, Cr, V, Ti, Zr, Sc, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn and ZrO, and the metal complex contains one or more further ligands.

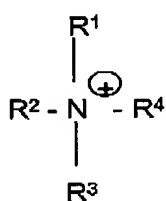
18) through 21) (Cancelled)

22) (Previously Presented) A method of imparting, controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner or developer, or an electret material comprising the step of adding a charge control agent to a binder of an electrophotographic toner or developer or of an electret material, wherein the charge control agent is distearyldimethyl ammonium bentonite.

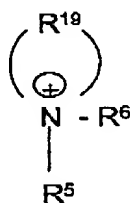
23) (Currently Amended) A method of imparting, controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner or developer, or an electret material, comprising the step of adding as a charge control agent a structured silicate salt wherein the cation is a low molecular weight ~~organic cation~~, nonpolymeric ammonium ion or a combination of a low molecular weight ~~organic cation~~ nonpolymeric ammonium ion with NH_4^+ , H_3O^+ , an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, an earth metal or with a transition metal and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or

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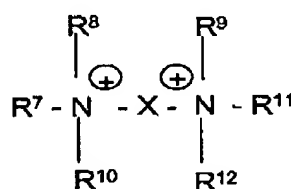
matrix silicate or a combination thereof to a binder of an electrophotographic toner or developer or of an electret material, wherein the charge control agent imparts either a positive or negative charge, wherein the low molecular weight, nonpolymeric ammonium ion is of the formula (a) - (i)



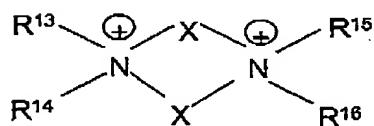
(a)



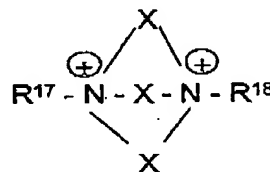
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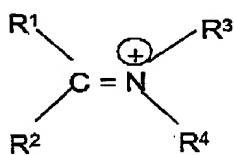
(c)



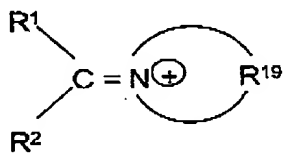
(d)



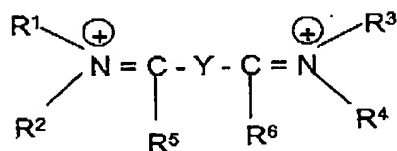
(e)



(f)

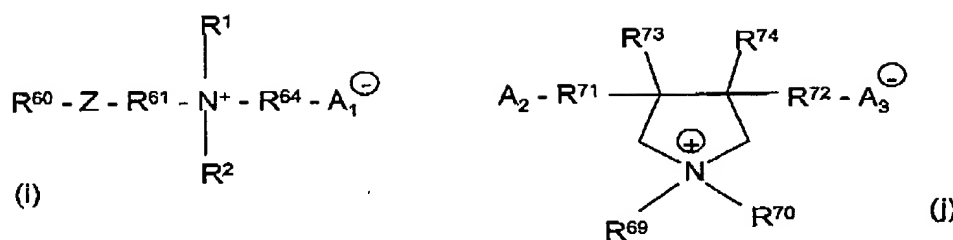


(g)



(h)

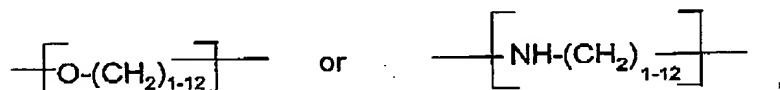
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in which

R^1 to R^{18} are identical or different and represent hydrogen, CN, $(CH_2)_{1-18}$ CN, halogen, branched or unbranched C_1 - C_{32} -alkyl, mono- or polyunsaturated C_2 - C_{32} -alkenyl, C_1 - C_{22} -alkoxy, C_1 - C_{22} -hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_{22} -halogenoalkyl, C_2 - C_{22} -halogenoalkenyl, C_1 - C_{22} -aminoalkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{12})$ -trialkyl-ammonium- $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkyl; $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)O$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ alkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)O$ -aryl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)NH$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ alkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $(C=O)NH$ -aryl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $O(CO)$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ alkyl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $O(CO)$ aryl, $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $NH(C=O)$ - $(C_1$ - $C_{32})$ alkyl, or $(C_1$ - $C_{22})$ -alkylene- $NHCO$ -aryl,

wherein



are optionally inserted into the acid ester or acid amide bonds:

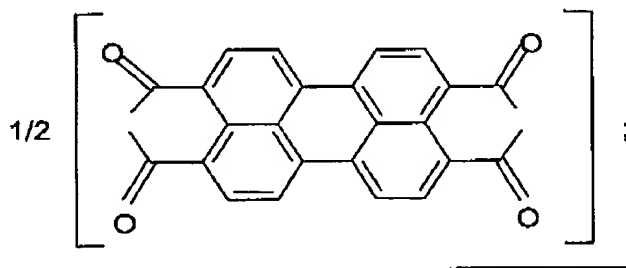
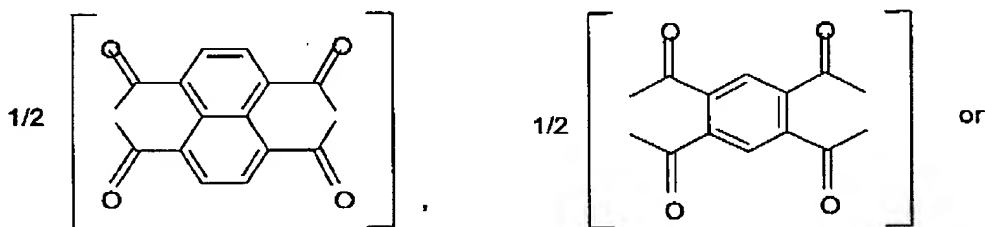
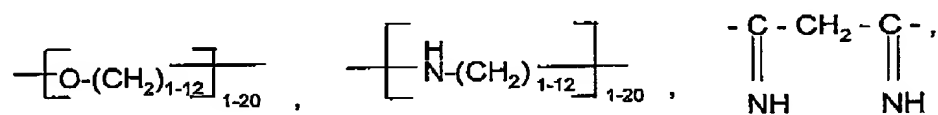
$[(C_1$ - $C_{12})$ -alkylene- O]-H; aryl, $(C_1$ - $C_{18})$ -alkylenearyl; $-(O-SiR'_2)-O-SiR'_3$, in which R' has the meaning C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or C_1 - C_{12} -alkoxy; heterocyclyl, or C_1 - C_{18} -alkylene-heterocyclyl, wherein the aryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally mono- or polysubstituted on carbon atoms or heteroatoms by C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkenyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, hydroxy- $(C_1$ - $C_4)$ alkyl, amino- $(C_1$ - $C_4)$ alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylimino, carboxyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, cyano, halogen, C_1 - C_{12} -acyl, C_1 - C_4 -halogenoalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonyloxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -

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alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylimino, C₈-C₁₀-arylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, phenyl, naphthyl, or heteroaryl;

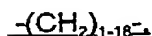
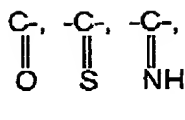
R¹⁹ represents C₄-C₁₁-alkylene, -(C₂H₄-O)-₁₋₁₇, -(CH₂)₁₋₂, or -(C₂H₄-NR-)₁₋₁₇, -(CH₂)₁₋₂, in which R is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂-alkyl;

X has the meaning of Y, or -CO-CH₂-CO-,



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Y has the meaning



or o-, p-, m-(C₆-C₁₄)-arylene or (C₄-C₁₄)-heteroarylene with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and a combination thereof;

R⁶⁰ represents C₁-C₃₂-acyl, C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, C₂-C₂₂-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkylene-C₆-C₁₀-aryl, C₁-C₂₂-alkylene-heterocyclyl, C₆-C₁₀-aryl or (C₄-C₁₄)-heteroaryl with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, and a combination thereof;

R⁶¹ and R⁶⁴ represent -(CH₂)₁₋₁₈-, C₁-C₁₂-alkylene-C₆-C₁₀-arylene, C₆-C₁₀-arylene, or C₆-C₁₂-alkylene-heterocyclyl;

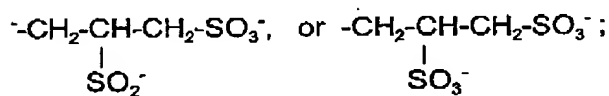
Z represents -NH- or -O-;

A₁⁻ and A₃⁻ represent -COO⁻, -SO₃⁻, -OSO₃⁻, -SO₂⁻, -COS⁻ or -CS₂⁻;

A₂ represents -SO₂Na, -SO₃Na, -SO₂H, -SO₃H or hydrogen;

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R⁶⁹ and R⁷⁰ independently of one another represent hydrogen, C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, in which the alkyl chain optionally contain one or more of the groups selected from the group consisting of -NH-CO-, -CO-NH-, -CO-O-, and -O-CO-; C₁-C₁₈-alkylene-aryl, C₀-C₁₈-alkylene-heterocyclyl, C₁-C₁₈-hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₁₈-halogenoalkyl, aryl, -(CH₂)₃-SO₂-

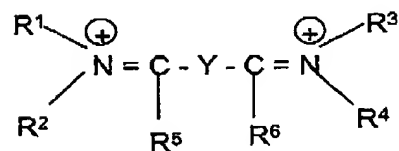
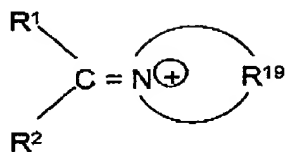
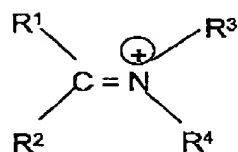
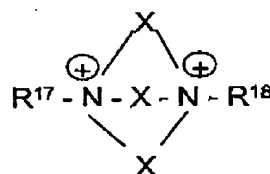
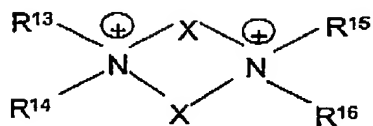
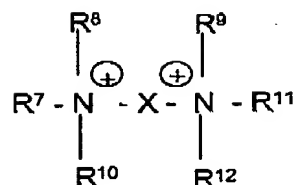
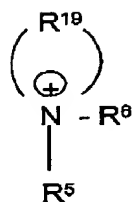
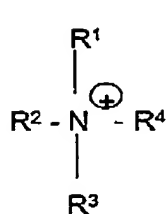


R⁷¹ and R⁷² represent -(CH₂)₁₋₁₂-; and
R⁷³ and R⁷⁴ represent hydrogen or C₁-C₂₂-alkyl.

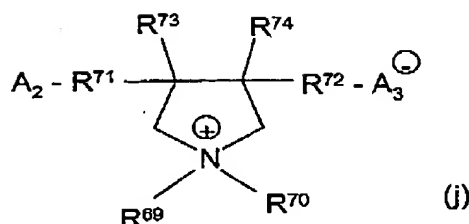
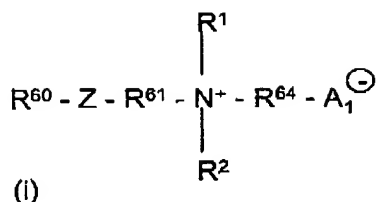
24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, where 2 to 8 rings are fused.

25. (New) A method of imparting, controlling or improving the charge of an electrophotographic toner or developer, or an electret material, comprising the step of adding as a charge control agent, wherein the charge control agent consists of a structured silicate salt, wherein the cation is a low molecular weight, nonpolymeric ammonium ion or a combination of a low molecular weight, nonpolymeric ammonium ion with NH₄⁺, H₃O⁺, an alkali metal, an alkaline earth metal, an earth metal or with a transition metal and the anion is an island, cyclic, group, chain, ribbon, laminar or matrix silicate or a combination thereof to a binder of an electrophotographic toner or developer or of an electret material, wherein the low molecular weight, nonpolymeric ammonium ion is of the formula (a) – (j)

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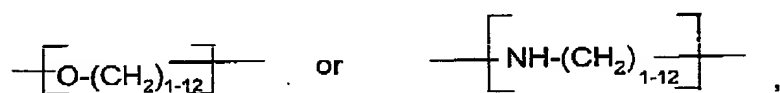
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in which

R¹ to R¹⁸ are identical or different and represent hydrogen, CN, (CH₂)₁₋₁₈CN, halogen, branched or unbranched C₁-C₃₂-alkyl, mono- or polyunsaturated C₂-C₃₂-alkenyl, C₁-C₂₂-alkoxy, C₁-C₂₂-hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₂₂-halogenoalkyl, C₂-C₂₂-halogenoalkenyl, C₁-C₂₂-aminoalkyl, (C₁-C₁₂)-trialkyl-ammonium-(C₁-C₂₂)-alkyl; (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-(C=O)O-(C₁-C₃₂)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-(C=O)O-aryl, (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-(C=O)NH-(C₁-C₃₂)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-(C=O)NH-aryl, (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-O(CO)-(C₁-C₃₂)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-O(CO)aryl, (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-NH(C=O)-(C₁-C₃₂)-alkyl, or (C₁-C₂₂)-alkylene-NHCO-aryl,

wherein



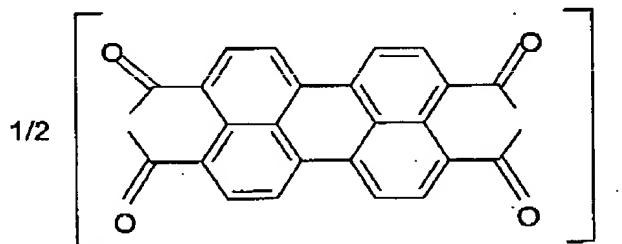
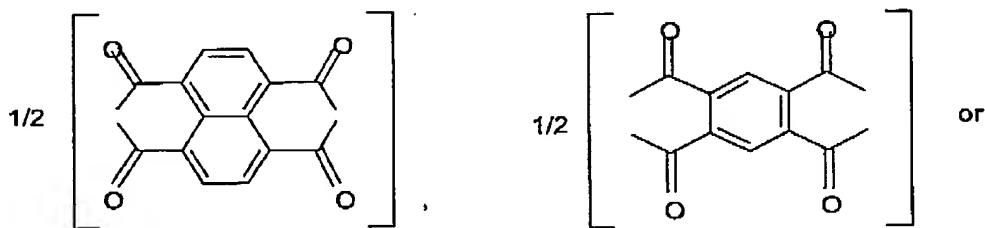
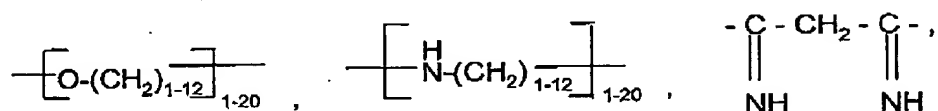
are optionally inserted into the acid ester or acid amide bonds;

[(C₁-C₁₂)-alkylene-O]-H; aryl, (C₁-C₁₈)-alkylenearyl; -(O-SiR'₂)-O-SiR'₃, in which R' has the meaning C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, phenyl, benzyl or C₁-C₁₂-alkoxy; heterocyclyl, or C₁-C₁₈-alkylene-heterocyclyl, wherein the aryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally mono- or polysubstituted on carbon atoms or heteroatoms by C₁-C₁₂-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkenyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, hydroxy-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, amino-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylimino, carboxyl, hydroxyl, amino, nitro, cyano, halogen, C₁-C₁₂-acyl, C₁-C₄-halogenoalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyloxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylimino, C₆-C₁₀-arylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, aminosulfonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylaminosulfonyl, phenyl, naphthyl, or heteroaryl;

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R¹⁹ represents C₄-C₁₁-alkylene, -(C₂H₄-O-)₁₋₁₇-(CH₂)₁₋₂- or -(C₂H₄-NR-)₁₋₁₇-(CH₂)₁₋₂-, in which R is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂-alkyl;

X has the meaning of Y, or -CO-CH₂-CO-,



Y has the meaning $\begin{array}{c} -\text{C}- \\ \parallel \\ \text{O} \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} -\text{C}- \\ \parallel \\ \text{S} \end{array}$, $\begin{array}{c} -\text{C}- \\ \parallel \\ \text{NH} \end{array}$, -(CH₂)₁₋₁₈-,

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or o-, p-, m-(C₆-C₁₄)-arylene or (C₄-C₁₄)-heteroarylene with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and a combination thereof;

R⁶⁰ represents C₁-C₃₂-acyl, C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, C₂-C₂₂-alkenyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkylene-C₆-C₁₀-aryl, C₁-C₂₂-alkylene-heterocyclyl, C₆-C₁₀-aryl or (C₄-C₁₄)-heteroaryl with 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, S, and a combination thereof;

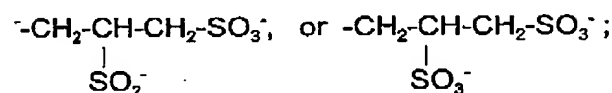
R⁶¹ and R⁶⁴ represent -(CH₂)₁₋₁₈-, C₁-C₁₂-alkylene-C₆-C₁₀-arylene, C₆-C₁₀-arylene, or C₀-C₁₂-alkylene-heterocyclyl;

Z represents -NH- or -O-;

A₁⁻ and A₃⁻ represent -COO⁻, -SO₃⁻, -OSO₃⁻, -SO₂⁻, -COS⁻ or -CS₂⁻;

A₂ represents -SO₂Na, -SO₃Na, -SO₂H, -SO₃H or hydrogen;

R⁶⁹ and R⁷⁰ independently of one another represent hydrogen, C₁-C₃₂-alkyl, in which the alkyl chain optionally contain one or more of the groups selected from the group consisting of -NH-CO-, -CO-NH-, -CO-O-, and -O-CO-; C₁-C₁₈-alkylene-aryl, C₀-C₁₈-alkylene-heterocyclyl, C₁-C₁₈-hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₁₈-halogenoalkyl, aryl, -(CH₂)₃-SO₃⁻,



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R^{71} and R^{72} represent $-(CH_2)_{1-12}-$; and
 R^{73} and R^{74} represent hydrogen or C_1-C_{22} -alkyl.

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